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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSIO:

In the Matter of	OFFICE OF SECRETARY
Implementation of Sections 3(n) and 332 of the Communications Act	GN Docket No. 93-252
Regulatory Treatment of Mobile Services	

SPRINT CORPORATION'S REPLIES TO OPPOSITIONS TO PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sprint Corporation ("Sprint"), on behalf of the United and Central Telephone Companies, Sprint Communications Company L.P., and Sprint Cellular, respectfully replies to the Opposition of Nextel Communications, Inc. ("Nextel") to Petitions for Reconsideration of the Second R&O.1

Nextel argues that the Commission contradicted itself in granting the same degree of regulatory forbearance to cellular licensees as it granted to other CMRS providers.² In support of its argument, Nextel points out that the Commission previously determined that the cellular market is not competitive and that cellular licensees, unlike other CMRS providers, are dominant

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^{1.} Implementation of Sections 3(n) and 332 of the Communications Act, Regulatory Treatment of Mobile Services, GN Docket No. 93-252, Second Report and Order, 9 FCC Rcd 1411 (1994) ("Second R&O").

^{2.} While not entirely clear, it appears that Nextel's argument is in support of MCI's claim that the Commission's decision to forbear from imposing a tariffing obligation for CMRS providers should be reconsidered. See, MCI Petition for Clarification and Partial Reconsideration, filed May 19, 1994 at pp 2-6.

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carriers with market power.³ Accordingly, Nextel claims that it was improper to grant the same degree of regulatory forbearance to cellular licensees as to other CMRS providers.

Rather, Nextel argues that the Commission should have exercised its forbearance authority based solely on an analysis of market power and competitive circumstances. Such an analysis, coupled with the Commission's finding that cellular licensees, unlike other CMRS providers, have market power would require the Commission to establish a bifurcated regulatory scheme with two classes of CMRS providers. One class would consist of dominant CMRS providers for which the Commission should not forbear from enforcing Title II obligations and the other class would consist of non-dominant CMRS providers.

Nextel is wrong. The Commission's forbearance analysis and final determination are consistent with the provisions of the Budget Act. The analysis started with the test specified in the Budget Act. The test authorizes Commission forbearance from enforcement of most Title II obligations if the Commission finds that enforcement is not necessary to ensure reasonable and nondiscriminatory rates or to protect consumers, and that

^{3.} Nextel at p 6.

forbearance is consistent with the public interest.⁴ The Commission noted that a review of market power is part of the public interest analysis. However, it is clear that this is only one part of the Budget Act's multipart forbearance test and not, as Nextel argues, the sole determinant of whether or not to forbear.⁵

In conducting the public interest analysis, the Commission decided that cellular service was different from other CMRS and analyzed the status of cellular market power separately from other CMRS:

We conclude that, for purposes of evaluating the level of competition in the CMRS marketplace, the record does not support a finding that all services should be treated as a single market. Thus, we will proceed with an analysis that focuses on **each** of the various commercial mobile radio services currently offered, and about to be offered . . . [Emphasis added.]⁶

Accordingly, the Commission conducted its forbearance analysis of the cellular market as if this market was separate and distinct from other CMRS markets. The Commission determined that, notwithstanding the fact that cellular services are not fully competitive, "the current state of competition regarding

^{4.} Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 ("Budget Act"), Pub. L. No. 103-66, title VI, at Section 6002(b)(2)(A) codified at 47 U.S.C. Section 332(c)(1)(a)(i)-(iii).

^{5. &}lt;u>Second R&O</u> at par. 125.

^{6. &}lt;u>Id.</u> at par. 136.

cellular services does not preclude our exercise of forbearance authority."

The Commission's analysis and conclusion are in accord with the Congressional intent set out in the Budget Act -- to foster "regulatory symmetry among similar mobile service."8. The Commission's finding that the state of cellular competition was different from that of other CMRS providers did not require the Commission to grant different regulatory forbearance for cellular licensees than for other CMRS providers or to create a dominant and separate non-dominant class of CMRS providers. While Congress granted the Commission the flexibility to classify CMRS providers and subject different classes to different degrees of regulatory forbearance, Congress did not require the Commission to create such classifications.9

^{7. &}lt;u>Id.</u> at par. 175.

^{8. &}lt;u>Id.</u> at par. 2.

^{9.} As the Commission stated in the <u>Second R&O</u>, at par. 155: "In the <u>Notice</u> we tentatively concluded that the Commission has the authority to establish classes or categories of CMRS. The Conference Report indicates that Congress intended to provide this flexibility, but did not mandate such differential regulation."

In conclusion, Sprint urges the Commission to reject the arguments of Nextel regarding reconsideration of forbearance for cellular licensees.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 30, 1994

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Melinda L. Mills, hereby certify that I have on this 30th day of June, 1994, sent via U.S. First Class Mail, postage prepaid, or Hand Delivery, a copy of the foregoing "Sprint Corporation's Replies to Oppositions to Petitions for Reconsideration" in the Matter of Implementation of Sections 3(n) and 332 of the Communications Act, Regulatory Treatment of Mobile Services, GN Docket No. 93-252 filed this date with the Acting Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, to the persons on the attached service list.

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